

CONNECTICUT JUDICIAL BRANCH

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON CULTURAL COMPETENCY

December 16, 2021
3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Video-Conference

MINUTES

Attendees: Judge Sanchez-Figueroa (Chair); Isabel Alvarez, Juana Brown, Troy Brown, Sandra Cardone, Lia Cestaro, Patrick (PJ) Deak, Esther Harris, Brian Hill, Zarin Kapur, Meghan Korn, Daisy Ortiz, Spiro Uyar, and Shawna Woodard

Absent: Chief Justice Richard A. Robinson (Chairman Emeritus), Samuel Bruder, Michaelangelo Palmieri, Philip Strambler, and Ewa Wojewodzki

Judge Sanchez-Figueroa called the meeting to order at 3:32 p.m.

The minutes from the September 15, 2021 meeting were unanimously approved.

Diversity Week 2021 Update

Sandra Cardone and Isabel Alvarez shared a final report. A total of 920 participants attended the Opening Celebration and the seven (7) sessions that were offered throughout the week. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, all sessions were held virtually over Zoom. We received a lot of great feedback between the Zoom chat logs and the LMS evaluations. The comments were generally positive. Many asked for more trainings throughout the year. A discussion ensued about how to increase participation and securing dedicated resources for future Diversity Week offerings. Judge Sanchez-Figueroa noted that she attended a webinar with Troy Brown, Brian Hill, and PJ Deak. The webinar, "What's Next? Maintaining Momentum on the Path to Your Racial Justice Blueprint" sponsored by the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) may be our first start establishing a formal diversity, equity and inclusion plan for the Branch. We will discuss the webinar in more detail at a future meeting. Troy Brown, PJ Deak, and Brian Hill will share the webinar and the participant materials. Shawna Woodard will share the Committee's proposal for a dedicated office of diversity, equity, and inclusion with Judge Sanchez-Figueroa.

Continued Discussion on Gender Identity

This item was tabled until the next meeting due to lack of time to discuss.

Race and Gender on the Applicant Resource Information Sheet (ARIS)

This item was tabled until the next meeting due to lack of time to discuss. Brian Hill will contact PJ Deak and Esther Harris to obtain more information they may research about the ARIS form before the next meeting.

New Business

None

Announcements

Members set the 2022 meeting schedule. The Committee will meet on the third Wednesday of every other month at 2:00 p.m. The next meeting will be Wednesday, January 19, 2022 at 2:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 4:53 p.m.